

Amendments to the Specification

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0002]:

BACKGROUND

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0006]:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] ~~Working on this basis, the~~ An object of the invention is to provide a method for starting a gas generation system for generating a hydrogen-containing gas for operating a fuel cell, having devices for converting starting substances into the hydrogen-containing gas, having devices for conditioning at least some of the starting substances, having devices for removing undesirable gas constituents from the hydrogen-containing gas and having a starting burner, which avoids ~~the~~ drawbacks described in the introduction and which reduces the residues of fuel which are not converted during the start-up process and also any particulates which may form to a minimum.

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] ~~According to the~~ The present invention provides a method for starting a gas generation system, in which, this object is achieved by the fact that in a first method step, at least one fuel is burnt in the starting burner, the hot exhaust gases from the combustion firstly heating the devices for conditioning at least some of the starting substances, and the residual heat which still remains thereafter being used to heat at least one further component, the devices for converting the starting substances being heated by electrical heating, after which, in a second method step, the starting substances are added to the respective components of the devices after a starting temperature has been reached, and after which, in a third method step, the quantitative ratios of the starting substances with respect to one another are changed continuously toward the an operational quantitative ratios (i.e., the quantitative ratio of the starting substances with respect to one another provided for operation as intended).

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0025]:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] Further advantageous configurations of the invention will emerge from the ~~remaining subclaims~~ claims and are explained in more detail on the basis of an exemplary embodiment and with reference to the following figures, in which:

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0032]:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In the Abstract

Please replace the Abstract as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/DE2003/02199 and replace it with the following amended Abstract:

ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a A method for starting a gas generating system (1) serving to generate a hydrogenous gas used for operating a fuel cell. The gas generating system includes comprises: devices for converting starting materials into the hydrogenous gas; devices for conditioning at least a portion of the starting materials; devices for purifying the hydrogenous gas by removing unwanted gas constituents, and; a starting burner-(11). The invention provides that According to the method, in a first method step, at least one fuel is combusted inside the starting burner. The hot waste gases resulting from this combustion firstly heat the devices provided for conditioning at least a portion of the starting materials, and the residual heat of these waste gases subsequently heats at least one additional component. In parallel thereto, the devices for converting the starting materials are heated by an electric heating. In a second method step, the starting materials are subsequently fed into the respective components or into of the aforementioned devices after a starting temperature has been reached. In a third method step, the quantitative proportions of the starting materials are then continuously modified in the direction towards the quantitative proportions provided for the normal operation of the gas generating system.